The Middleborough Antiquarian

Devoted to the preservation of local history by

MIDDLEBOROUGH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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NEW FORMAT FOR THE ANTIQUARIAN

Due to the acquisition of two of the old homes on Jackson Street through the generosity of our Board of Selectmen, and the opportunity to purchase the well-known Tom Thumb Collection to add to our own store of Thumb memorabilia, the Association has decided that The Antiquarian must temporarily shed its pictorial and printed regalia for obvious reasons. As soon as our new properties are restored, and our collections housed, arranged and displayed for the benefit of the community and those who visit us from fifty states each year, we hope to resume publication in printed form.

OUR NEW MUSEUM

At our meeting on October 3, 1960, a start was made on having a Middleborough Historical Museum. Three motions were passed unanimously by those present. For the benefit of the members who were not present, we are reprinting the motions here.

MOVED: That the Middleborough Historical Association, Inc., accept the offer by the Town of the two Peirce houses on Jackson Street for use as its Historical Museum.
MOVED: That the President and the Board of Directors appoint a Museum Committee. The duties of this Committee will be as follows:

1. To see that the buildings are properly restored and prepared to house the various exhibits owned by the Association or loaned to it.
2. To be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Museum.
3. To solicit and accept monies donated for the operation and maintenance of the Museum and for the acquisition of mementos, relics or other historical items.
4. To appoint one of its members the Museum Treasurer. He will establish a separate account for such monies, to be paid out only on authorization of the Museum Committee.

The Museum Committee shall consist of not less than nine members. The first Committee appointed shall have three members appointed for one year, three members appointed for two years and three members appointed for three years. After the first year, the three members appointed each year shall serve for a period of three years. Vacancies shall be filled by the President and the Board of Directors for the balance of such vacancies.
MOVED: That the money presently on hand in the Savings Banks, and the shares in the Middleborough Cooperative Bank, held for the purpose of establishing a home for The Historical Association, be turned over to the Museum Committee Treasurer for use by the Museum Committee.

NEXT MEETING - DECEMBER 5th

Because the regular meeting night for the November meeting falls on Election Eve, when many members may be otherwise busy, the Board of Directors decided to postpone the meeting to the first Monday in December, which is December 5th. This will give our newly formed and already active Museum Committee time to make a more complete report of its plans to the Association.

At the December meeting you will be asked to vote on a change in our By-laws. They now require that new members must be approved by the Board of Directors and then voted in by the Association. There has been a feeling among many that this is an undemocratic restriction, and that it has kept some people who could make a worth while contribution to our Association from joining, since they felt they must await a specific invitation to become members. It is hoped that you will vote in favor of this change.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

The following members have been appointed by the President and the Board of Directors to the Museum Committee:

Mrs. Horace K. Atkins	One Year
Mr. Carlon Leland	One Year
Mr. Charles Judge	One Year
Mrs. Roderick Matheson	Two Years
Mr. Ward Stetson	Two Years
Mr. Ernest Thomas	Two Years
Mrs. Mertie E. Witbeck	Three Years
Mr. Lawrence Romaine	Three Years
Mr. Robert F. Howes	Three Years

At its first meeting on October 11, 1960, the following officers were elected:

Chairman Mrs. Mertie E. Witbeck
Treasurer Mr. Robert F. Howes
Mrs. Harold A. Hall has agreed to serve as Secretary for the Committee.

The Museum Committee is holding weekly meetings, and by the time of the December meeting, it will have an exciting report to make.

ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT

At our special meeting on October 4, there were present representatives of The Junior Chamber of Commerce, The Cabot Club, The Junior Cabot Club, The Garden Club, and The League of Women Voters. All of them voiced enthusiastic support of the Museum Project. The Junior Chamber of Commerce has started to set up a town-wide organization to raise the money needed for the Museum.

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ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT

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The Garden Club has voted to help in every possible way.

Since news of the Museum was released, contributions, varying from Count Magri's "topper" to single dollars and larger checks have started to come into the new Museum Committee Treasury. There have been many phone calls offering to help in the cleaning up and restoration work.

All of this indicates a town-wide interest in having, at long last, a Middleborough Historical Museum. All offers of help are being turned over to the Museum Committee which will work out a Master Plan to provide for coordination of all efforts.

Your attention is again called to the fact that financial contributions to the Middleborough Historical Association, Inc., are tax deductible.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Our future museum buildings were built during the first quarter of the 19th century. To date we have been unable to discover who originally owned and lived in them. They came to the town from the Peirce Estate but there is no evidence that the Peirce family actually erected them. Their original 16 to 20 inch pine floors, wainscoting, fireplaces, ovens and mouldings are intact, making restoration fairly simple. An 1880 "wart" on the Lincoln Street end of one will, of course, be taken off as painlessly as possible. When finished we hope that we will have contributed a living memorial to our Tercentenary of New England living, and presented to Plymouth County another contribution of Yankee Preservation of American History.

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LET US ALL HELP TO PUT THE MUSEUM OVER
IT CAN BE DONE!

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THE MIDDLEBOROUGH ANTIQUARIAN
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